[*Translation*]

Panchayati Raj Sammelans

4783. SHRI SOMJIBHAI DAMOR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the names of places where Panchayati Raj Sammelans were held during 1988-89;

(b) whether the Sammelans of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes representatives of Panchayati Raj at national level were held in Vigyan Bhavan, Delhi;

(c) if so, the action taken by the Government on the conclusions and recommendations made by these Sammelans; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) Panchayati Raj Sammelans were held during 1988-89 as under:—

1. Conference for Northern and Western States: Delhi 27-30 January, 1989;

2. Conference for Eastern and North Eastern States: Calcutta 3-7 April, 1989;

3. Conference for Southern States: Bangalore 27-29 April, 1989

(b) A National Conference on 'Panchayati Raj and Scheduled Castes' was held from 24-27 February, 1989 at Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi. Another National conference on 'Panchayati Raj and schedule Tribes' was held from 4-6 March, 1989 at Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi.

(c) The Constitution (Sixty-Fourth Amendment) Bill, 1989 for revitalisation of Panchayati Raj Institutions which was introduced in Parliament in May, 1989 incorporated the conclusions and recommendations made by these Sammelans.

(d) Question does not arise.

[*English*]

Growth Rate of Agriculture

4784. SHRI TARA CHAND KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a decline in the growth rate of agriculture during the Seventh Plan as compared to the growth rate achieved during the Sixth Plan;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have since taken/propose to take any effective measures to increase the growth rate of agriculture during the Eighth Five Year Plan period; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) and (b). The growth rate of agriculture during the Sixth Plan appears to be very high since the base year of the SixthPlan was 1979-80 which happened to be a severe drought year registering fall of 13.4% in agricultural value added over the year 1978-79. With this very low base, the growth rate of agriculture during the Sixth Plan turns out to be 6.2 per annum as compared to 3.6% in the Seventh Plan. However, with 1978-79 as the base, the average growth over the six years including five years of the Sixth Plan turns out to be only 2.9%.